

THREATS

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FLORIDA TODAY, Friday, October 24, 1997

Sabotage suspected in blackout

Los Angeles Times

SAN FRANCISCO — A massive, predawn power outage that snuffed out lights across San Francisco Thursday, snarling traffic and wreaking havoc on the city's morning routine, may have been the work of saboteurs.

A spokesman for Pacific Gas & Electric Co. said the utility called in the FBI and San Francisco police Thursday afternoon to determine why three banks of transformers at a key substation lost power at 6:15 a.m., cutting electricity to 120,000 customers — and leaving a third of the city dark.

"They are treating the substation as a crime scene, and we believe there is a strong possibility of tampering," said PG&E spokesman Bill Roake.

Kennedy assassination leads may have been overlooked

Newsday

Long-secret testimony from the former chief of the Secret Service and one of his top aides reveals that several reported conspiracies to assassinate President Kennedy may not have been fully investigated.

The 1978 testimony, just released by a federal agency, was offered to a congressional committee by James Rowley, Secret Service chief at the time of Kennedy's 1963 murder, and Thomas Kelley, who directed the service's investigation. They said the Secret Service began investigations into various reported assassination plots, but several days after the assassination, President Johnson ordered that the FBI conduct the criminal investigation. The Secret Service continued investigating — but only for the purpose of uncovering information needed to safeguard people under its protection — and turned its leads on

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THE NATION

purported conspiracies over to the FBI.

Rowley and Kelley said the Secret Service never learned whether the FBI pursued those leads to logical conclusions. Most involved Cubans of various political colorations — including Fidel Castro. Others involved right-wingers and the Ku Klux Klan. At least one surfaced before the assassination.

At one point in Rowley's testimony before the House Select Committee on Assassinations, committee counsel Leodis Matthews asked about a group of anti-Castro Chicago Cubans "who may have had a connection in the assassination of President Kennedy." Matthews noted that a Secret Service informant had reported to an agent that one of these Cubans had

told him before the assassination: "We now have plenty of money, and as soon as we take care of Kennedy ..." An interruption followed. Rowley said the investigation had been pursued until the Secret Service was told to turn its information over to the FBI.

"You do have a recollection of yourself being under the impression the Secret Service was to cease all investigations into the Kennedy assassination?" Matthews asked.

"My impression was that, yes," Rowley said. "I know definitely the order (to take over the investigation) was given by the president to the FBI."

Matthews, in testimony released by the U.S. Assassination Records Review Board, questioned Rowley about other Cuban activists — including a former delegate to the United Nations described as "a well-known terrorist." Rowley testified: "From all appearances, it would appear that there would be a conspiracy."